

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-11 AID-20 RSR-01 /127 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6904

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

OSD/ISA/WASHDC

CNO/WASHDC

USCINCSO

CINCLANTFLT/NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS. MILI, PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN INITIATIVE AT CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES

REF: LIMA 6454, BRASILIA 5686

1. SUMMARY: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GOP DELEGATION TO CARACAS CONFERENCE PLANS TO CHALLENGE PRESENT SYSTEM OF INTER-AMERICAN MILITARY COOPERATION, U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA, AND ALSO U.S. ECONOMIC ROLE IN LA. HOWEVER, AT INSISTENCE MIN NAVY VARGAS CABALLERO, DELEGATION WILL NOT CRITICIZE EITHER THE ANNUAL UNITAS EXERCISE OR OTHER ASPECTS US-PERUVIAN BILATERAL NAVY RELATIONSHIP. REGARDING UNITAS OPERATIONS IN PERU, THESE HAVE GONE OFF QUITE WELL SO FAR, BUT CURTAILMENT OF SCHEDULED PORT VISITS DUE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATIONS IN PROSPECT FOR CHILE AND POSSIBLY ARGENTINA.

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2. MIN NAVY VARGAS CABALLERO TOLD CHARGE SEPTEMBER 2 OF MEETING

WITH PRIMIN MERCADO REGARDING PERU'S INITIATIVE AT CARACAS CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES. VARGAS SAID MERCADO HAD ASKED HIM WHETHER GOP SHOULD CHALLENGE UNITAS EXERCISE IN CONJUNCTION WITH GENERAL GOP CRITICISM OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN LA. VARGAS SAID HE REPLIED UNITAS OPERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED AND THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH EXISTING NAVY-TO-NAVY RELATIONSHIP. VARGAS ALSO ADVISED MERCADO TO ATTEMPT REFORM RATHER THAN DRASTICALLY CHANGE RIO TREATY PROVISIONS, IADC, ETC. HE SAID REGARDING TREATY HE COUNSELLED CHARGES WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE FURTHER INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BUT OTHERWISE LEAVE TREATY INTACT. VARGAS IMPLIED THAT MERCADO HAD AGREED TO LEAVE OUT ANY CRITICISM OF UNITAS FROM GOP PRESENTATION.

3. REGARDING UNITAS EXERCISE, THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF SENIOR U.S. AND PERUVIAN OFFICERS WITH WHOM CHARGE HAS SPOKEN DURING WEEKEND OF SOCIAL AND CEREMONIAL EVENTS IS THAT EXERCISE HAS GONE SMOOTHLY TO DATE, AND CORDIAL PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AMONG THE NAVAL OFFICERS CONCERNED. THE ONE CLOUD ON HORIZON CONERNS UNITAS SCHEDULING FOR CHILE AND ARGENTINA. SANTIAGO PERFORMANCES OF UNITAS BAND HAVE BEEN SCRATCHED, AND ADDITIONAL VISITS ELSEWHERE, POSSIBLY INCLUDING CUZCO, ARE BEING ARRANGED. PORT VISIT TO VALPARAISO HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AND CHILE VISIT MAY BE CONFINED TO NAVAL BASE AT TALCAHUARO. CONCERN IS ALSO BEING EXPRESSED BY U.S. OFFICERS THAT UNITAS ACTIVISITES IN ARGENTINA MAY BE CURTAILED, PARTICULARLY THOSE AT BUENOS AIRES. BARNEBEY

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